

7 November 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Suggestion No. 58-5

1. In our opinion the reference aids that are now available to NIS users and researchers in the Intelligence Community provide a more convenient means of determining the coverage and the numerical designation of NIS Areas than would the proposed Alphabetical Index of NIS Reports.

2. The NIS STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS contain a listing of NIS Areas arranged in numerical order and NIS Areas Index Map which shows the NIS number and the boundary of each land and ocean area. These instructions were designed primarily for researchers and others engaged in the NIS production program. For NIS users there is the NIS REFERENCE GUIDE, a condensed version of the NIS STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS, with the addition of suggestions on how to use the NIS, which also contains a numerical listing of NIS Areas. Further, the NIS QUARTERLY PRODUCTION REPORT contains a numerical listing of the NIS Areas on which published NIS elements are available, and a list of the published elements as well as those in publication process in OBI as of the date of the report.

3. The above mentioned NIS reference aids give complete and precise information on the numerical designation and coverage of each NIS Area, which the suggested Alphabetical Index does not do. For example, the latter lists "Nationalist China, NIS No. 39B" whereas NIS No. 39B also covers Hong Kong and Macao as well as all Nationalist-held islands. There are other similar cases where the coverage extends beyond the borders of the country named in the Alphabetical Index, such as Spain, Denmark, Ecuador and Portugal, to name a few.

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4. In several other respects we feel that the suggested index is much too general in its area designations to serve as a training or library aid. For example, the proposed index lists only the four Ocean areas under the NIS numbers 104 through 107. These ocean areas are divided into Parts as follows: 104-12 Parts, 105 - 12 Parts, 106 - 4 Parts, and 107 - 1 Part. These Parts are produced and published as individual units. To gain knowledge of the area treated in each Part requires reference to the NIS Index Map on the Ocean Areas. The NIS Quarterly Report also lists the published NIS on Oceanography and Marine Climate under the Part number of the Ocean Area of which it is a part. Further, certain of the largest land areas are divided into Parts for treatment in NIS Chapter II (Military Geography) while Chapter III through IX on these large areas treat the NIS Area as a whole. There is no indication of this in the suggested index and there is, of course, no information on the boundaries of the Parts in Chapter II breakdown.

5. While the suggested index might be of some limited value as a training or library aid, it is not definitive enough to be of any value to NIS producing personnel, nor, in our opinion, is there any need for such an index among the users of the NIS.

6. For your ready reference in considering this matter, I am attaching copies of the NIS Areas Index Maps which, in our opinion, fully meets the requirement for which the Alphabetical Index was designed.

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Enclosure:

NIS Areas Index Map

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